

LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY REPORT

When we first launched AppRights, Congressman Hank Johnson pledged to keep everyone informed as we explore legislative options.

Inspired by the efforts of [Twitter](#) and [Google](#), the goal of the Legislative Transparency Report is to illustrate the input that the Congressman is receiving on AppRights.

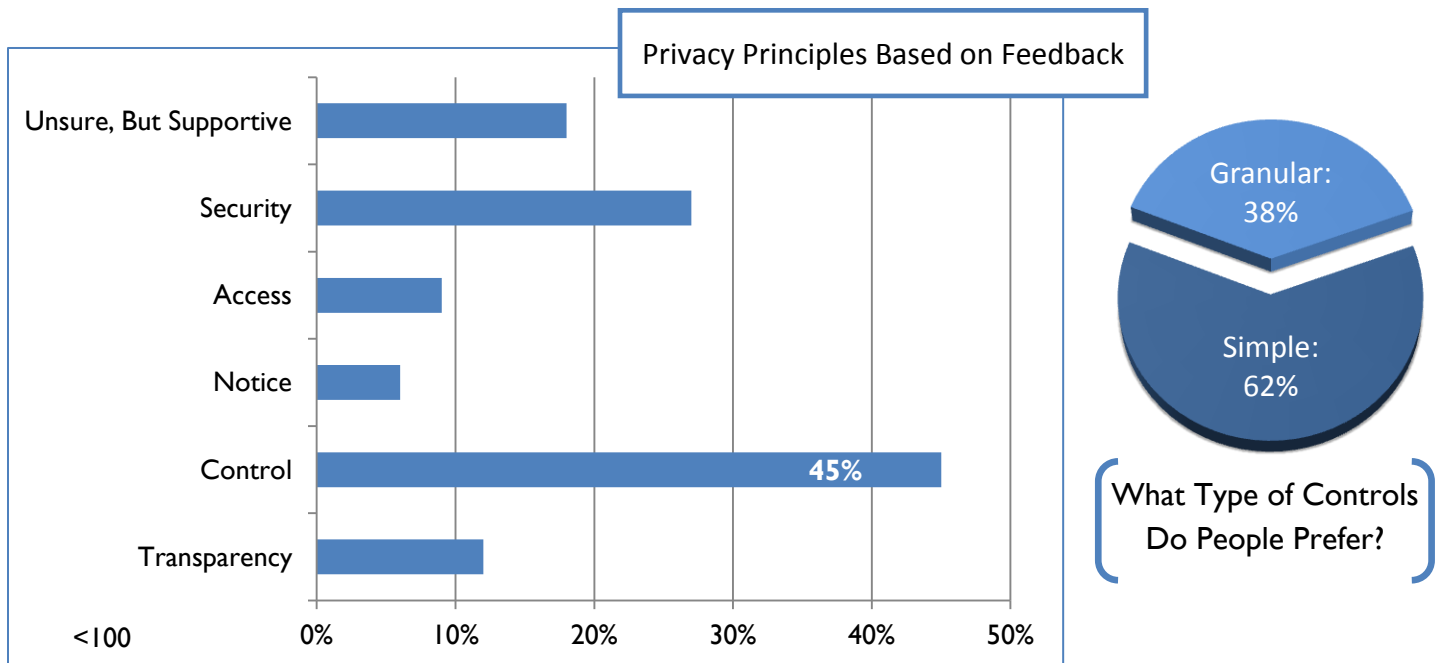
To generate data for this report, we separated dozens of thoughtful comments into corresponding privacy principles. In some instances, people articulated very specific concerns. We counted each of these separately, even where a comment identified multiple principles. Tom, for instance, wants to “know which entities are gathering information from my mobile device and have access to all information collected from my mobile.” We counted this as both access and transparency.

We marked generic comments like “keep fighting for privacy rights” as “unsure, but supportive.” None of the comments that we received rejected mobile privacy as a concern. But there was some dispute over whether it was the largest concern or whether Congress should regulate mobile devices.

We also looked at whether comments clearly support or oppose a legislative solution.

USER FEEDBACK + PRIVACY PRINCIPLES

Based on the feedback that we’ve received through our secure form at AppRights.us, most people are concerned with control over their privacy.



Several comments advocated granular controls of apps and mobile devices. Leo, for instance, said that he wants “to completely control how any data collected about me is used.”

But far more comments preferred simple controls for their privacy on mobile devices. Examples of these controls include a one-click mechanism to disable tracking or limit data-collection. Others favored having default settings that require users to opt in to tracking.

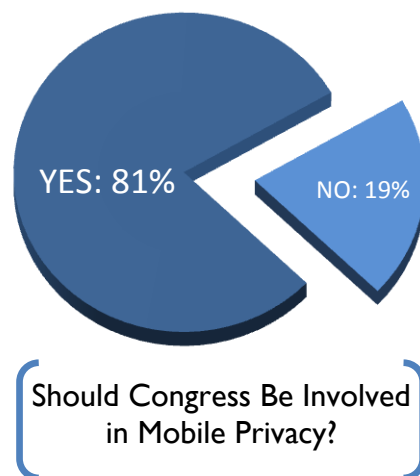
USER FEEDBACK + REGULATING PRIVACY

The majority of the feedback that we received supports congressional attention to mobile privacy concerns.

A vocal minority of feedback, however, opposed regulating mobile devices. Some comments opposed any legislation that affects the internet or expands government. Comments like Rachel's pointed to other, more immediate issues: "App privacy is meaningless when our cell carriers freely disclose our private information."

Still other comments recognized that mobile privacy is important, but that legislation is ill-suited for mobile devices.

For this reason, Evan argued that having privacy on a mobile device is "impossible" because it "is a computer that: (1) is not controlled by its user; (2) necessarily reports the user's location in real time by communication with towers; and (3) contains cameras and microphones."



GOING FORWARD

We hope that this report sheds light on the type of feedback that we have received, and the views of the people who have weighed in on mobile privacy.

We strongly believe in the importance of working with the Internet community, industry stakeholders, and public-interest groups before proposing solutions to users' growing privacy concerns. .

Thank you for your thoughtful comments and ideas. We will continue striving to keep everyone informed about the legislative process as it moves forward.